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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Hirotaaka Yamaji

Serial No. 09/740,790

Filed December 21, 2000

For AUDIO PLAYBACK/RECORDING
APPARATUS HAVING MULTIPLE
DECODERS IN ROM (as amended)

Group Art Unit 2654

Examiner Daniel A. Nolan

Confirmation No. 6402

Box AF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

BOX "AF"
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
---EXPEDITE PROCEDURE---
EXAMINING GROUP 2654

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 12, 2004, please amend
the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification: There are no amendments to the specification
in this paper.

Amendments to the Claims: Amendments to the claims are indicated by the
notation "currently amended" in the listing of claims beginning on page 2
of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings: There are no amendments to the drawings in this
paper.

Remarks: The "REMARKS" section begins on page 7 of this paper.

Please
Enter Amendment
Vijay Chauhan
1/10/05

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

Claims 1–5 (Canceled).

1 6 (Currently amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus according
2 to claim 9 ~~+~~, further comprising an authorization data writing section
3 which writes said authorization data within a header information section of
4 said digital audio data.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

1 8 (Currently amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus according
2 to claim ~~+~~ 9 wherein said interfaces of said general-purpose interface
3 circuit section are selected from the group consisting of USB, IEEE1394,
4 wireless LAN, and home RF.

1 9 (Currently Amended). A playback /recording method of digital audio
2 data using an audio playback/recording apparatus having a
3 playback/recording processing section, an audio output processing section,
4 an external recording circuit section, a general-purpose interface circuit
5 section, a protection processing section, a ROM, a RAM, and an expanded
6 RAM, said method comprising:
7 A) in a case in which input data input to the audio
8 playback/recording apparatus are ~~playbacked~~ played back and recorded on
9 an external recording medium,
10 said audio input processing section receives analog audio data from
11 an input apparatus connected thereto and converts said analog audio data to
12 digital audio data and outputs said digital audio data to the audio output
13 processing section and playback/recording processing section,

14 said audio output processing section converts said received digital
15 audio data to analog audio data and ~~playbacks~~ plays back said converted
16 analog audio data,
17 said playback/recording processing section compresses said digital
18 audio data and stores said compressed digital audio data in said RAM, and
19 after said audio output processing section ~~playbacks~~ plays back said
20 digital audio data, said external recording circuit section records
21 compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM into an external
22 recording medium;
23 B) in a case in which input data input to the audio
24 playback/recording apparatus are recorded on an external recording
25 medium,
26 said audio input processing section receives analog audio data from
27 an input apparatus connected thereto and converts said analog data audio
28 data to digital audio data and outputs said digital audio data to the
29 playback/recording processing section,
30 said play back/recording processing section compresses said digital
31 audio data and stores said compressed digital audio data in said RAM, and
32 said external recording circuit section records compressed digital
33 audiodata stored in said RAM on the external recording medium;
34 C) in a case in which recorded data on an external recording
35 medium are ~~playbacked~~ played back,
36 said external recording circuit section reads out compressed digital
37 audio data from the external recording medium and stores said readout
38 data into said RAM,
39 said playback/recording processing section decompresses said
40 compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM, and
41 said audio output processing section converts said decompressed
42 digital audio data to analog audio data and outputs said converted analog
43 data to an output apparatus and ~~playbacks~~ plays back said analog audio
44 data;

45 D) in a case in which recorded data on an external recording
46 medium are transferred to an external apparatus,
47 said external recording circuit section reads out compressed digital
48 audio data from the external recording medium and stores said readout
49 data into said RAM,
50 said protection processing section generates authorization data
51 including an individual identifier and ~~a decryption~~ an encryption key so as
52 to encrypt data and encrypts said compressed digital audio data stored in
53 said RAM, said general-purpose interface circuit section outputs said
54 authorization data to said external apparatus, after that, outputs encrypted
55 compressed digital audio data to said external apparatus; and
56 E) in a case in which input data received from an external apparatus
57 are recorded on an external recording medium,
58 said general-purpose interface circuit section receives authorization
59 data including a decryption key from the external apparatus,
60 said protection processing section compares said individual
61 identifier included in said authorization data from the external apparatus
62 with an individual identifier list stored in the ROM and checks a
63 properness of a transmitting party,
64 said general-purpose interface circuit section receives encrypted
65 compressed digital audio data from the external apparatus and stores them
66 in the RAM,
67 said protection processing section decrypts encrypted compressed
68 digital audio data stored in the RAM by using the decryption key included
69 in the authorization data, and
70 said external recording circuit section records the compressed
71 digital audio data stored in the RAM into the external recording medium.

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place it in *prima facie* condition for allowance. The application now includes claims 6, 8, and 9. Claims 6 and 8 have been amended to depend from claim 9, and claim 9 has been amended to address the issues raised by the Examiner. In the office action, it was noted that claim 9 was directed to allowable subject matter (see page 12). The indication that claim 9 is directed to allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner's obvious care in his review of the claims is most appreciated, and claim 9 has been amended in direct response to his objections and suggestions. The Examiner required that "playbacked" (two occurrences) be changed to ~~played back~~ and that "playbacks" (three occurrences) be changed to ~~plays back~~. These corrections have been made by this amendment. In view of these amendments to claim 9, it is believed that the Examiner's objections to the claims have been overcome, and withdrawal of the objections is therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner correctly noted that the decryption key is used only for decryption. Therefore, "a decryption key" has been changed to ~~an encryption key~~ (see line 51 of the currently amended claim) and the "authorization data" has been amended to include "a decryption key" (see line 59 of the currently amended claim) so as to provide proper antecedent basis for "the decryption key included in the authorization data" (see lines 68 and 69 of the currently amended claim). As amended, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

All other objections and rejections are made moot by this amendment.

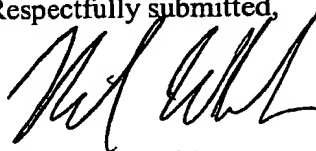
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 6, 8 and 9 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local

telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Whitham", written over a horizontal line.

Michael E. Whitham
Reg. No. 32,635

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AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Large Entity)

Applicant(s): H. Yamaji

Docket No.

04150011AA

Application No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Customer No.	Group Art Unit	Confirmation No.
09/740,790	12/21/00	D.Nolan	30743	2654	6402

Inventor: Audio Playback/Recording Apparatus Having Multiple Decoders in ROM (as amended)

BOX "AF"

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

---EXPEDITE PROCEDURE---

EXAMINING GROUP 2654

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED

	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	3 -	20 =	0 x	\$18.00	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	1 -	3 =	0 x	\$88.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$0.00

- ☒ No additional fee is required for amendment.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____
- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-2041
- ☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038.

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Signature

Dated: Dec. 10, 2004

Michael E. Whitham
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on

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